DETERMINE DISCHARGEABILITY OF STUDENT LOAN(S)

STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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1. Debtors Newton Chun Tak and Lori Aileen Scarlett (collectively referred to herein as "Debtors" or individually as a "Debtor") filed the bankruptcy case in which this adversary proceeding arises and relates in the Central District of California, Los Angeles Division, on or about August 27, 2021.

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2. This action is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(I) (determinations as to the dischargeability of particular debts).

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3. This Court has jurisdiction over this adversary proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. 4. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1409, as this

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adversary proceeding arises under Title 11 or arises under or relates to a case under Title 11 which is pending in this District.

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5. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 523, Plaintiff is required to bring this proceeding to obtain a determination from the Court regarding the dischargeability of Plaintiff's debt to defendant U.S. Department of Education.

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THE PARTIES

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6. Plaintiff Lori Aileen Scarlett ("Plaintiff") is an individual presently residing in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. Plaintiff is also one of the two Debtors in the above-captioned Chapter 7 case.

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7. Defendant U.S. Department of Education (the "ED") is a Cabinet-level department and instrumentality of the United States Government, which has its headquarters in the federal district of Washington, District of Columbia, and is a creditor of Plaintiff.

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8. Defendant Performant Recovery, Inc. ("Performant"), is a California corporation, which has its principal office in California at 333 North Canyons Parkway, Suite 100, Livermore, California 94551, which provides debt collection

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services, and which is or previously was providing debt collection services on behalf of the ED for one or more of the student loans that are the subject of this adversary complaint.

- 9. Defendant Windham Professionals, Inc. ("Windham"), is a Massachusetts corporation, which has its principal executive office at 384 Main Street, Salem, New Hampshire 03079, which provides debt collection services, and which is or previously was providing debt collection services on behalf of the ED for one or more of the student loans that are the subject of this adversary complaint.
- 10. Defendants the ED, Performant, and Windham are collectively referred to herein as "Defendants."
- 11. Timothy Yoo is the bankruptcy trustee assigned to above-captioned Chapter 7 case and is a nominal party to this adversary proceeding.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 12. In or around September 1989, Plaintiff enrolled as a student at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, the cost of which was partially covered through one or more student loans that Plaintiff borrowed from Defendants ("Student Loan(s)").
- Plaintiff listed Defendants and the Student Loan(s) in Schedule E/F to 13. Debtors' Voluntary Petition for Chapter 7 bankruptcy.
- 14. Plaintiff is informed and believes that her total indebtedness to Defendants for the Student Loan(s) is approximately \$50,000. Plaintiff presently has little information on her Student Loan(s) and the actual total indebtedness amount may be more than this amount.
- Although Plaintiff is currently married to her co-Debtor, Debtors are 15. separated and have been separated since on or about January 2020, do not share any income or expenses since being separated, and intend to file for dissolution after their Chapter 7 bankruptcy case closes.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Determine Debt Dischargeable Under 11 U.S.C. § 523 for Undue Hardship)

- 16. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 15, inclusive, as though fully set forth herein.
- 17. Plaintiff is currently unemployed and has no source of income. She had previously been living off of Pandemic unemployment benefits which amounted to approximately \$1,800 per month, or \$21,600 per year (far below the "extremely low income" amount of the \$24,850 per year for Los Angeles County as determined for 2021 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development), prior to that benefit ending in or around September 2021, and which amount is and was not even adequate to afford the basic necessities of life.
- 18. Plaintiff has applied for, or is otherwise in the process of applying for, unemployment benefits from the California Employment Development Department, but at this time is not receiving *any* benefits and presently does not have any employment income.
- 19. Plaintiff's average monthly expenses are over \$2,600, which <u>exceeded</u> her monthly unemployment income of \$1,800 that she was previously receiving. Plaintiff has managed to cover some of her most necessary expenses largely through gifts and assistance from friends and family.
- 20. Critically, there have been continuing increases in cost of living in the United States, particularly since the COVID-19 Pandemic began. Very recently on November 10, 2021, the Wall Street Journal reported that U.S. inflation hit a 31-year high in October 2021.
- 21. Plaintiff has no resources to repay the Student Loan(s) and *any* payment Plaintiff would make would be at a great hardship. Excepting the loans from discharge would impose a tremendous and undue hardship on Plaintiff.

DETERMINE DISCHARGEABILITY OF STUDENT LOAN(S)

Cas	se 2:21-ap-01235-BB Doc 1 Filed 11/22/21 Entered 11/22/21 18:04:51 Desc Main Document Page 6 of 12			
1	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL AND STATEMENT OF CONSENT			
2	Pursuant to LBR 9015-2, plaintiff Lori Aileen Scarlett hereby demands a trial			
3	by jury of all of the issues herein so triable.			
4	Plaintiff consents to a jury trial conducted by the Bankruptcy Court.			
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6	DATED: November 22, 2021 LORI AILEEN SCARLETT			
7	By: /s/ Lori A. Scarlett			
8	Lori A. Scarlett			
9	Plaintiff in Pro Per			
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	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL AND STATEMENT OF CONSENT			

This form is mandatory. It has been approved for use by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

B1040 (FORM 1040) (12/15)

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING COVER SHEE	ET	ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NUMBER (Court Use Only)		
(Instructions on Reverse)				
PLAINTIFFS	DEFEND	ANTS		
		partment of Education; Performant y, Inc.; and Windham Professionals, Inc.		
ATTORNEYS (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone No.) Lori A. Scarlett, Plaintiff in Pro Per 1015 North Stanley Avenue, Apt. 5, West Hollywood, CA 90046 Tel. (310) 331-8778		NEYS (If Known)		
PARTY (Check One Box Only) ☑ Debtor □ U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin □ Creditor □ Other □ Trustee	PARTY (□ Debtor ✓ Creditor □ Trustee	Check One Box Only) ☐ U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin ☐ Other		
CAUSE OF ACTION (WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE				
Claim to Determine Debt Dischargeable Under 11 L	J.S.C. § 5	523 for Undue Hardship		
NATURE (OF SUIT			
(Number up to five (5) boxes starting with lead cause of action as 1, first alternative cause as 2, second alternative cause as 3, etc.)				
FRBP 7001(1) – Recovery of Money/Property 11-Recovery of money/property - \$542 turnover of property 12-Recovery of money/property - \$547 preference 13-Recovery of money/property - \$548 fraudulent transfer 14-Recovery of money/property - other		FRBP 7001(6) – Dischargeability (continued) ☐ 61-Dischargeability - §523(a)(5), domestic support ☐ 68-Dischargeability - §523(a)(6), willful and malicious injury ☐ 63-Dischargeability - §523(a)(8), student loan ☐ 64-Dischargeability - §523(a)(15), divorce or separation obligation (other than domestic support)		
FRBP 7001(2) – Validity, Priority or Extent of Lien □ 21-Validity, priority or extent of lien or other interest in property	_	argeability - other		
FRBP 7001(3) – Approval of Sale of Property 31-Approval of sale of property of estate and of a co-owner - §363(h)	71-Injun	7) – Injunctive Relief ctive relief – imposition of stay ctive relief – other		
FRBP 7001(4) – Objection/Revocation of Discharge 41-Objection / revocation of discharge - §727(c),(d),(e)		Subordination of Claim or Interest rdination of claim or interest		
FRBP 7001(5) – Revocation of Confirmation ☐ 51-Revocation of confirmation		9) Declaratory Judgment aratory judgment		
FRBP 7001(6) – Dischargeability 66-Dischargeability - §523(a)(1),(14),(14A) priority tax claims 62-Dischargeability - §523(a)(2), false pretenses, false representation, actual fraud 67-Dischargeability - §523(a)(4), fraud as fiduciary, embezzlement, larceny (continued next column)	Other SS-SIPA	10) Determination of Removed Action rmination of removed claim or cause Case – 15 U.S.C. §§78aaa et.seq. r (e.g. other actions that would have been brought in state court		
, , ,		related to bankruptcy case)		
☐ Check if this case involves a substantive issue of state law		this is asserted to be a class action under FRCP 23		
✓ Check if a jury trial is demanded in complaint Other Relief Sought	Demand \$	to be determined at trial, but no less than \$50,000		

B1040 (FORM 1040) (12/15)

BANKRUPTCY CASE IN WHICH THIS ADVERSARY PROCEEDING ARISES					
NAME OF DEBTOR Newton Chun Tak and Lori Aileen Scarlett		BANKRUPTCY CASE NO. 2:21-bk-16816-BB			
DISTRICT IN WHICH CASE IS PENDING Central District of California		DIVISION OFFICE Los Angeles Division	NAME OF JUDGE Hon. Sheri Bluebond		
RELATED ADVERSARY PROCEEDING (IF ANY)					
PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	Γ	ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NO.		
DISTRICT IN WHICH ADVERSARY IS PENDING		DIVISION OFFICE	NAME OF JUDGE		
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PLAINTIFF) /s/ Lori A. Scarlett					
DATE November 22, 2021		PRINT NAME OF ATTORN Lori A. Scarlett, Plaintif			

INSTRUCTIONS

The filing of a bankruptcy case creates an "estate" under the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court which consists of all of the property of the debtor, wherever that property is located. Because the bankruptcy estate is so extensive and the jurisdiction of the court so broad, there may be lawsuits over the property or property rights of the estate. There also may be lawsuits concerning the debtor's discharge. If such a lawsuit is filed in a bankruptcy court, it is called an adversary proceeding.

A party filing an adversary proceeding must also must complete and file Form 1040, the Adversary Proceeding Cover Sheet, unless the party files the adversary proceeding electronically through the court's Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system (CM/ECF). (CM/ECF captures the information on Form 1040 as part of the filing process.) When completed, the cover sheet summarizes basic information on the adversary proceeding. The clerk of court needs the information to process the adversary proceeding and prepare required statistical reports on court activity.

The cover sheet and the information contained on it do not replace or supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, the Bankruptcy Rules, or the local rules of court. The cover sheet, which is largely self-explanatory, must be completed by the plaintiff's attorney (or by the plaintiff if the plaintiff is not represented by an attorney). A separate cover sheet must be submitted to the clerk for each complaint filed.

Plaintiffs and Defendants. Give the names of the plaintiffs and defendants exactly as they appear on the complaint.

Attorneys. Give the names and addresses of the attorneys, if known.

Party. Check the most appropriate box in the first column for the plaintiffs and the second column for the defendants.

Demand. Enter the dollar amount being demanded in the complaint.

Signature. This cover sheet must be signed by the attorney of record in the box on the second page of the form. If the plaintiff is represented by a law firm, a member of the firm must sign. If the plaintiff is pro se, that is, not represented by an attorney, the plaintiff must sign.

Attorney or Party Name, Address, Telephone & FAX Nos., State Bar No. & Email Address Lori A. Scarlett 1015 North Stanley Avenue, Apt. 5 West Hollywood, California 90046 Tel. (310) 331-8778 Plaintiff, in Pro Per	FOR COURT USE ONLY
Attorney for Plaintiff	
	TES BANKRUPTCY COURT LIFORNIA - LOS ANGELES DIVISION
In re: NEWTON CHUN TAK; and LORI AILEEN SCARLETT,	CASE NO.: 2:21-bk-16816-BB CHAPTER: 7 ADVERSARY NO.:
Debt	or(s).
Plain Versus U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; PERFORMA RECOVERY, INC.; and WINDHAM PROFESSIONA INC., Defenda	ALS,
Complaint, you must file with the court a written plead your written response on the party shown in the upper written response is If you do not time default against you for the relief demanded in the Cores at the status conference in the adversary proceeding comes the conference in the adversary proceeding comes at the conference in the adversary proceeding comes at the conference in the adversary proceeding comes at the court at the court at written plead your written plead	menced by the Complaint has been set for:
Courtroom: 3	255 East Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 3420 Twelfth Street, Riverside, CA 92501 411 West Fourth Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701 415 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 21041 Burbank Boulevard, Woodland Hills, CA 91367

This form is mandatory. It has been approved for use in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

You must comply with LBR 7016-1, which requires you to file a joint status report and to appear at a status conference. All parties must read and comply with the rule, even if you are representing yourself. You must cooperate with the other parties in the case and file a joint status report with the court and serve it on the appropriate parties at least 14 days before a status conference. A court-approved joint status report form is available on the court's website (LBR form F 7016-1.STATUS.REPORT) with an attachment for additional parties if necessary (LBR form F 7016-1.STATUS.REPORT.ATTACH). If the other parties do not cooperate in filing a joint status report, you still must file with the court a unilateral status report and the accompanying required declaration instead of a joint status report 7 days before the status conference. The court may fine you or impose other sanctions if you do not file a status report. The court may also fine you or impose other sanctions if you fail to appear at a status conference.

KATHLEEN J. CAMPBELL CLERK OF COURT

Pate of Issuance of Summons and Notice of Status Conference in Adversary Proceeding:		
	By:	
	Deputy Clerk	

PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding. My business address is:

A true and correct copy (1) of the foregoing document entitled: SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF STATUS CONFERENCE IN ADVERSARY PROCEEDING [LBR 7004-1] and (2) the accompanying pleading(s) entitled:		
will be served or with the manner stated		ambers in the form and manner required by LBR 5005-2(d); and (b) in
Orders and LBR, t	he foregoing document will be ser _, I checked the CM/ECF docket fo	OF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF) : Pursuant to controlling General ved by the court via NEF and hyperlink to the document. On (<i>date</i>) or this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding and determined that ce List to receive NEF transmission at the email addresses stated
		Service information continued on attached page
On (date) case or adversary first class, postage	proceeding by placing a true and	persons and/or entities at the last known addresses in this bankruptcy correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope in the United States mail, vs. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that mailing to the the document is filed.
		Service information continued on attached page
for each person of the following person such service meth	entity served): Pursuant to F.R.Cons and/or entities by personal delod), by facsimile transmission and	GHT MAIL, FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION OR EMAIL (state method civ.P. 5 and/or controlling LBR, on (date), I served ivery, overnight mail service, or (for those who consented in writing to l/or email as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration dge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is
I declare under pe	nalty of perjury under the laws of t	Service information continued on attached page the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.
Date	Printed Name	Signature

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